

Let me remind you, when we got the United Nations resolution passed, we and the others who supported it—986—to allow him to sell oil to get food and medicine for his people, even while he was continuing to resist getting rid of his entire chemical and biological weapons arsenal, he delayed the full implementation of that for a year and a half. He is in no position to point the finger at anyone else in the world for the suffering of his own people. And once again today, he has proved that he is responsible for the suffering of his own people.

The rest of us are more than happy to let him sell oil in amounts necessary to generate the cash to alleviate the human suffering of the people of Iraq. That's what 986 was all about. This is not about 986. This is about some other way that he can manipulate the feelings of people beyond the borders of Iraq, even if he has to let innocent children die to do it, so he can continue to pursue a weapons of mass destruction program. And it's wrong, and the world community should not let him get away with it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bill Lann Lee, nominee for Assistant Attorney General; the late U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, M. Larry Lawrence; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the National Economy *December 5, 1997*

The November employment report shows the economy is the strongest it has been in a generation, with the lowest unemployment rate in a quarter century, nearly 14 million new jobs in the last 5 years, and real wages rising again. Today's good news—strong job creation and higher incomes—shows that the American economy continues to work for working families. It is clear that our three-part economic strategy—reducing the deficit, investing in people, and opening foreign markets to American goods—is the right strategy for America.

Most importantly, this economic prosperity is helping all Americans; for example, the unemployment rate among Hispanics fell to

one of its lowest levels ever recorded. And over the past year we had more new manufacturing jobs than during any other year in nearly three decades. While the economy is growing steady and strong, we still have more to do to keep our Nation on the right track and ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from this growth.

Proclamation 7058—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 1997 *December 5, 1997*

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

December 7, 1941, marked a turning point in the history of our Nation, a defining moment that would alter the lives of millions of Americans and change forever America's destiny. On that quiet Sunday morning, the forces of Imperial Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, killing or injuring more than 3,000 Americans, crippling our Pacific Fleet, and critically damaging our airpower. In that moment of supreme crisis, the essential greatness at the core of the American spirit was revealed. Our response was not despair, but determination. Inspired by the leadership of President Franklin Roosevelt and buoyed by his faith that we ultimately would prevail, America went to war.

Looking back across the years, we rightly are still awed by what the American people accomplished during World War II. United in spirit and purpose after the attack on Pearl Harbor, millions of men and women joined the Armed Forces; by war's end, some 15 million had served. They fought fiercely and with uncommon courage in battlefields across the globe. In the Pacific, step by bloody and painstaking step, they took back the islands captured by Imperial Japanese forces in the days after Pearl Harbor. The names of those battles still resonate through the years: Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima. On the western front, facing the daunting power of the Nazi war machine, Americans and our Allies struggled and died to liberate Europe, fighting in the stormy North Atlantic, in the searing heat of North

Africa, and in the flak-filled skies over France and Germany.

Americans on the home front responded with equal gallantry and strength. Stepping forward to close the gap left by departing servicemen, the very young, the elderly, minority workers, and women filled America's factories and shipyards. Working around the clock, they built the ships, planes, tanks, and guns that armed the forces of freedom and made our Nation the "Arsenal of Democracy." In fields, on farms, and in neighborhood Victory Gardens, they produced the food to sustain our Nation, our troops, and our Allies. Millions left their homes to do their part, and few American families were untouched by the hardships and sacrifices demanded by this unprecedented effort.

While more than half a century separates us from the attack on Pearl Harbor, we still can learn much from the example, achievements, and heroic deeds of those Americans who preserved the flame of liberty and passed it around the world. They taught us that America is the world's best hope for freedom and democracy and that we must never shrink from the responsibilities of that leadership. They taught us the need for constant vigilance, a powerful military, and strength of character. They showed us that, when Americans are united in heart and mind, there is nothing we cannot accomplish together.

As we remember Pearl Harbor, let us also remember and give thanks for that great and gallant leader, Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose memorial we dedicated earlier this year in our Nation's Capital. In December of 1941, in one of our Nation's darkest hours, he proclaimed his faith in the ultimate victory of freedom over tyranny that, sadly, he did not live to see:

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph. So help us God.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-308, has designated December 7, 1997, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 1997, as

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the Americans who served at Pearl Harbor. I also ask all Federal departments and agencies, organizations, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on this day in honor of those Americans who died as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:10 p.m., December 8, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 9.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 1

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to the White House from Camp David, MD.

December 2

In the evening, the President attended a professional basketball game at the grand opening of the MCI Center. Prior to the game, he toured the new facility and visited with members of the Washington Wizards and the Seattle SuperSonics. During the game, the President was interviewed on cable television's ESPN and TNT.

The White House announced that the President named former Representative Howard Wolpe as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State to Africa's Great Lakes region.